

**LOUDOUN COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mikey Gordon, Room 215

Depot Ct.

Leesburg, VA 20176

**Committee Members Present:**

Paul Popejoy, Sugarland Run, Chairman

Dr. Leslie Sinn DVM, Potomac, Vice Chairman

Donna S. Lewis, At-Large, Recording Secretary

Kathy Brice, Blue Ridge, Vice Chair

Lila Westwood, Broad Run

Joanne Donohue, Catoctin

Monica Patty, Dulles

Dr. Michael Strickland DVM, Leesburg (arrived 7:20 p.m.)

**Committee Members Absent:**

Paul Dodaro, Sterling

**LCACC Staff Present:**

Thomas Koenig, Director

Donna Levesque, Administrative Manager

Kim Miller, Animal Control Officer

Amy Seymour, Volunteer Coordinator

Inga Fricke, Shelter Manager

**Public Present:**

Ron Litz, Sugarland (arrived after Public Comment)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Paul Popejoy, at 7:02 pm. The minutes from the January 27, 2010 meeting were presented. The minutes were adopted ~~unanimously as written by those present~~ (7-0-2).

**Public Comment:** None

**DIRECTOR UPDATE:**

**Budget Update:** The budge process is almost complete. The adopted budget means that there were no lost positions for the Department. There was a lost of \$25,000 in maintenance and operating funds and the big hit with this loss is the Care Program. The Department has proposed about \$60,000 in new revenue for FY11. Changes will occur in fees for adoption of puppies and kittens 6 months and under. There will be a public hearing of the fees. Also there will now be an adoption hold fee at time of application. The fee will be applied to the cost of the adoption. This will cut down those animals being held off the adoption floor and the administrative cost when the adopters do not

complete the process. Also, the new process for having the license run concurrent with the rabies certificate created unplanned revenue which was not reflected in the budget. \$35,000 of that revenue will be used for next year's budget. The process of having vets turn in the information on rabies certificates has created an increase of 5,000 more dog licenses. Still only 50% of the dogs in Loudoun County are licensed. A discussion was held on why this percentage is not 100%. About half the unlicensed dogs sent letters to come back with a request for a license. However, that leaves about 6,000 more to follow up on. At \$10 per year does this does not cover the administrative costs to do these follow ups. Investigating the possibility of on-line dog tag purchasing which may encourage purchase and cut down administrative costs. Some public complaints are that the vets are not telling the public that the dog information will be turned into the Department and this will generate a notice to purchase a dog license. The Department will be working on getting informational flyers to the vets to hand out. Additional revenue will also come from Trap rental fees (\$25 / \$10 returned up on return of trap). A discussion was held on the process to obtain a license. Most of the licenses come in by mail and they are also available at the Treasurers Offices as well as at the Shelter. In the future, the mobile adoption unit may be used as a place to issue dog licenses. Concern is the element of collecting money and turning it into the Treasurer's Office. A process of a lap top being available that could be used to purchase is being looked into along with the cost of setting this process up through the system the Department uses now.

The Care program's \$10,000 to help out with animal medical care for people who qualify for financial assistance is gone. An application is being worked on to be submitted to Petco Charities for a \$15,000 grant. The license plate spay-neuter funds are not part of the Care program funding that has been eliminated. Discussion was held on the possibility of covering this cost by the Trust Fund and if the grant doesn't work, this may be a way to cover the costs.

**Legislative Update:** There were not many animal related bills passed by Richmond. A few vet bills passed.

**Snow Related Issues:** December 19 was significant with getting staff in and the public in and keeping operations going. The Western Loudoun area (Bluemont) was the worst area hit by the second storm. Cattle and horses were starving because they couldn't get feed to them. The drifts were 15 to 18 feet deep. The good news was that the Department kept on top of the issues and managed with staff staying at the Shelter. The Shelter did not loose power and the heat stayed on. There were some roof leaks. There were several issues with animals falling into ponds. Five cows fell through ice (only one didn't make it). Also a dog fell through a pond and was rescued by staff and fire & rescue staff. Due to this, the owners of the dog have donated a canoe that can be used in water rescues. There is a generator at the Shelter but is only an 8 hour one and then needs fuel to continue. There was plenty of food in house and a water tank (with a drop in horse trough heater) was available. Lessons learned was how to share information with the community on being prepared for more than just a few days. Also these owners need to develop their own plan for these types of situations. A neighborhood forum is in the works with the Department and the Extension Office in attendance.

## **Animal Control – Kim Miller**

January and February stats were presented. A lot of wildlife calls were received due to the snow. The accidental designation was given from an exposure from a play situation or an incident of minor contact. When isolation is required the owner may contain the animal at home. Ms. Brice requested further explanation of the protocol when an animal is hurt in the wild and you don't know its vaccination history. The Health Department only requires an animal to be isolated when it exposes a human. The Department follows the Health Department isolation regulations. The Department assists the owner but the Department does not do isolation at the shelter unless it is a stray, a request of the owner or the requirement of the Health Department. Ms. Brice stated that their vet states a requirement of six months isolation when an animal is not known to have rabies vaccination. The vet is quoting the Compendium of Rabies (National document). The Compendium is a document that vets follow with no Health Department or County enforcement. The Health Department states that there must be a human exposure for an animal to be but under isolation. If it is reported that the animal may have had contact with a rabid animal, then the isolation period is up to 6 months if it doesn't have a current rabies certificate. The isolation is ten days from a bite to a human from an animal with a current rabies certificate. The Department will not make animals available for adoption if an animal comes in with any type bite. Dr. Sinn explained that if an animal is not showing neurological signs within a 10 day period, there is no way it could have transmitted rabies to a person. This does not mean that the animal will not develop rabies in the future and the determined window of time for dogs and cats to develop rabies is six months. If the person does not want to follow the recommendation of isolation, it is recommended that the animal be euthanized. Isolation has to be done by a responsible person and the animal must be kept separate from humans and other animals in the household. A link to the Compendium will be sent out. Dr. Strickland will hold a discussion on this issue at the next LC Vet meeting.

## **Public Relations / Volunteer Activity - Amy Seymour**

There is a new volunteer group that started three weeks ago from North Spring Behavioral Center in Leesburg. A group of about six come every other week and clean the critter cages every other Tuesday morning. The mobile adoptions at Petco are going very well and due to the better weather, there is more activity. Advertisements on Wink have increased traffic. Education visits to schools have been made with three in February and March and four scheduled in April. Bunny Bonanza is scheduled for March 31 for people to be educated about rabbits but it is not an adoption event. Lansdowne is hosting a 5K race on April 25 with funds raised being donated to Animal Care and Control. The mobile adoption van will be at the event. There is a new videographer volunteer for the web site and now dog videos are on the web site.

## **Animal Shelter – Inga Fricke**

Large groups of rabbits came in and many of the females were pregnant. Many were still

born and several of the adults had medical issues. Ms. Brice questioned the “Other” category. She will be e-mailed the specifics of this listing.

## **Subcommittee Reports**

### **Euthanasia – Ms. Westwood – Ms. Patty**

The committee has received behavior reports from January and February. Received reporting charts from Charlottesville SPCA and noted that they may suggest ~~have~~ more subcategories.

### **Public Visibility – No report**

### **Increasing Volunteers –**

Amy Seymour stated that there are about 40 active volunteers and 80-90 inactive ones and about 20 regular foster homes at present. There are always Foster Home orientations to acquire more. Increasing volunteers may be the wrong name. It may be better to use increase in help in programs, increasing consistency of volunteer hours, and being able to give greater array of jobs for volunteers. Normally receive about 250 volunteer hours and on a low month 125 to 150. Dog and cat volunteers are always covered but other less popular programs could use more hours (small animals, pets to vets, administrative help). The benefits of the hours are calculated for cost to report the value to the County. A suggestion was made to have testimonials at the next volunteer meeting to highlight these other areas.

### **Laws and Ordinances – No report**

### **Animals in Emergency – Mr. Popejoy**

Planning to meet to evaluate the needs that were created by the winter snows.

### **Reduce Cost and Improve Efficiency – No report**

## **Unfinished Business**

### **New Business**

#### **Subcommittee review**

There is a need to evaluate the subcommittee’s structure and reports.

The Reduced Cost subcommittee may not be necessary since it has never met.

Animals in Emergency and Laws and Ordinances are two that should be kept due to events and progress.

Increase in Volunteers may need to be evaluated as to the name and mission of this subcommittee or the committee may work on it as a whole.

Public Visibility may need a different name and focus (spay neuter program was under this committee but it could also include the Care Program and enhancement to council the public on surrender of animals).

Euthanasia Rates subcommittee should be kept.

If anyone would like to change committees, be prepared to make comment next month.

Dr. Strickland is interested in the Animals in Emergency and Ms. Donohue is interested in the Volunteer Subcommittee.

### **Committee Member informational Reports**

**At Large – Ms. Donna Lewis – none**

**Blue Ridge – Ms. Kathy Brice**

Humane Society is doing a fundraiser on April 10 (8-11 p.m.) at Bungalows in Chantilly. The cost is \$10 and it is being sponsored by Parrot Heads (Old Dominion and D.C).

**Broad Run – Ms. Lila Westwood - none**

**Catoctin – Ms. Joanne Dekker Donohue**

Recognized the Humane Society for helping with spay/neuter of a barn cat. Just adopted Mariska, named Daisy now. Thanked [the Department](#) for a rescue of a horse that went down in the mud. Stevie, the wonder dog, who came into the shelter back in November, is at Customs in Georgia. Tank also got adopted.

**Dulles – Ms. Monica Patty - none**

**Leesburg – Dr. Mike Strickland, D.V.M.**

Annual Paws for Your Heart will be held again this year on June 13<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ~~We are~~[He is](#) encouraging groups to form to do the 3-mile walk at the Marion DuPont Equine Center. The money will go back to Animal Care and Control and the Douglas Community Center. Dr. Strickland requested help to get the word out about the event.

**Potomac – Dr. Leslie Sinn, D.V.M.**

There will be a dog wash on May 1<sup>st</sup> at NOVA in Sterling and maybe micro-chipping and rabies clinic.

**Sterling – Mr. Paul Dodaro**

**Sugarland Run – Mr. Paul Popejoy - none**

**Adjournment – 8:34 p.m.**

**Next meeting, Wednesday, April 28, 2010**